

## Paris ... continued from Page 4A

out in the county at appropriate intersections. We do not want anyone who either lives here or visits here to not understand that we are under a burn ban and that it is very serious.

### Q. Why is this drought such a big deal?

A. This is a drought of historic proportions that we have never had before in the Southeast, especially during the high fire season. We have many homes on the side of mountains and in heavily wooded subdivisions and we want to carefully protect everyone. Also, it is possible that people still do not realize how dry it is and how dangerous it is.

### Q. Will the fire danger get worse than it is now?

A. Yes, unless we receive some rain, which is NOT in the forecast for weeks. The "leaf off" condition now is still medium as many green leaves are still on the trees. The leaves that have fallen, if you pick them up, still have a leathery texture to them because they are not completely dried out yet. Once the remaining leaves fall and they all dry out, then the forest floor becomes like a blow torch when fire reaches it. Please be cautious.

### Q. We have seen a lot of smoke. Where is it coming from?

A. We did have one 50 acre fire just over the mountain from the top of Richard Russell Highway which caused a smoky condition for a couple of days, but most of the smoke is coming from North Carolina and Fannin County. Fannin has a fire on the Northwest side of the county of about 10,000 acres in the wilderness. Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties in North Carolina have 10 major fires burning now with each ranging

from 100 acres to 4000 acres, which is creating a tremendous amount of smoke. The wind direction will determine how much smoke we have in the county. Yesterday, Clay County, NC evacuated some of their homes for a few hours.

WE BEG YOU TO BE CAREFUL AND IMMEDIATELY REPORT ANY FLAMES THAT YOU CAN SEE.

### Q. Is there anything we can do to help the firefighters?

A. Not right now. The USFS crews have all their food and supplies with them and really have no way to handle donations. At this time, we do not need them for county firefighters unless the situations become a lot worse. The Georgia Forestry is in the same situation. So while everyone appreciates your willingness to help, please call the Union County Fire Department regarding their need for donations.

A Special Thanks to our out of town firefighters from the West, the GA Forestry firefighters and the Union County Fire Department and all volunteer firemen for your dedication to your jobs. We are going to depend on all of you in the coming weeks to help protect us.

Some people have asked if there would be any evacuations and if there were how they would be notified. The Union Alert system is a great system to get information on your cell phone about emergencies. You can call 706-439-6091 or 706-439-6056 and ask about Union Alert. You can also email ucfd-clerk@uniongov.com for more information. We are also providing information on social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We will notify anyone if there is in need of evacuation if it were to occur.

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Harold and he took off running. The 67 year old Laura chased him. Dad and the other cousins knew Harold was in trouble and they tried to stop him. Harold thought this was great fun and continued his laughing while everyone tried to catch him.

Dad and Bud ran up beside their elderly grandmother and told her they would catch Harold. The feisty little woman said, "No, you won't; I will". At this point Laura hid at the corner of the house. Harold came running around the cor-

ner laughing at the top of his voice. Laura reached out and grabbed him by his topknot. Harold was stunned that this little 67 year old woman had caught him at least until she wrapped that peach tree limb around his legs.

Instead of impressing his cousins Harold continued to be the brunt of their jokes. He eventually won the respect of his cousins and became one of Chicago's finest police officers. But, Harold never sassed his grandmother Laura again.

## Mattee... continued from Page 4A

pping on your door if the fit is not tight enough, and cover any outdoor vents with as fine a mesh as possible. These insects are small and flat and can fit through even most small holes and cracks. Populations seldom become large enough to require pesticide treatment, but spot treating with

readily available pre-mixed treatments produced by major brands found at hardware or home garden stores can be effective. Even with all this preparation, you will inevitably get some in your house, but they do not bite humans or pose any health risk beyond a minor annoyance.

## Allison... continued from Page 4A

following businesses for co-sponsoring this event: From Me 2 U, Michaellee's Italian Life Caffe, and Blue Ridge Mountain Outfitters.

In addition to our sponsors, we would like to also thank the following local businesses who are participating in the Hometown Holiday Shopping event: The Vacuum Store, Crushed & Corked, Tropical Beach Tanning Salon, Made With Love Marketplace, Roberta L. Ford-Mary Kay Cosmetics Independent Business Consultant, Home Werks, Sign Makers of FL/GA, Pat's Hallmark Shop, Essence of Rose, Cabin Coffee of Blairsville, Logan Turnpike Mill, Bagel Barn of Blairsville, Rustic Mountain Décor, Beautiful Things, Jerae's Unity Alpacas, Mountain Crossings, Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia

Hargus, Sunflower Antiques and Interiors, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Origami Owl-Sharon E. Penner, American Cowboy Store, Sage Wax Boutique, Shabby Peacock, Hi Country Shops, Sundance Gallery Gifts, Pet City USA, The Loft Boutique, and Aspen Hearth & Home.

If you would like to subscribe to future email coupon promotions, and never miss another great sale, go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com, click Newsletter Signup and subscribe to Buy Local Coupons & Events. Coupons will also be available for download from the home page of our Chamber website. For more information, you can also call the Chamber office as well at 706-745-5789. Thank you in advance for supporting our local businesses!

## CASA ... continued from Page 4A

the events.

The CASA program is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family. Our mission is to advocate for each foster child's best interest so he/she can be placed in a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible. Last

year Enotah CASA volunteers performed over 2,800 hours of service and drove more than 29,000 miles advocating for the abused and neglected children in Union and Towns counties; and saving taxpayers an estimated \$157,000.

Our thanks to all of you. Your contribution and support has helped to "Lift up a Child's Voice. A Child's Life."

**Linda D'Angelo,  
The Enotah CASA  
Board of Directors & Staff**

439-6091 for up-to-date information on donations.

The wildland fires and the drought are serious issues that we are dealing with on a daily basis. We are seeing no indications of this being over soon or getting better. We are preparing every day and making every attempt to keep the public informed. We also ask people to adhere to the burn ban.

~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Riley ... continued from Page 4A

Kentucky authorities made two arson arrests and cited another man for causing a brush fire by defying a burn ban. Tennessee authorities also reported arrests for arson and burning violations.

Smoke blowing southward has blanketed Atlanta and other cities in haze as far as middle Georgia. Alabama extended its burn ban throughout the state, where drought is choking 80 percent of the land, drying up streams and lakes and turning plants to tinder. Firefighters in Alabama have battled more than 1,100 fires that have charred nearly 12,000 acres in the last month. Tuscaloosa and Birmingham have both tied or broken records for days without measurable rain; neither has had more than sprinkles since late September. And Noccalula Falls, a popular attraction on Lookout Mountain in northeast Alabama, has been bone dry for weeks. The creek is dry and there's not even a trickle going over the falls. One of the largest blazes was spreading rapidly in the Cohutta Wilderness area just south of the Georgia-Tennessee line. Nearly 300 people are battling that fire, which already consumed 10,000 acres, the Forest Service said. In the hills outside Chattanooga, firefighters were trying to save homes on both Signal Mountain and Mowbray Mountain. They may get reinforcements.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it would reimburse most of one fire's costs after a request from Tennessee. Winds are expected to strengthen in the short term, so we may see some increases in activity over the weekend," said Shardul Raval, director of fire and aviation management for the southern region of the U.S. Forest Service.

Drought conditions also are persisting in parts of the Florida panhandle and portions of Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana and Missouri, per the Drought Monitor from the National Drought Mitiga-

## Fowler...

continued from Page 4A

we rename what God says is sin to blend with a culture that desperately needs redeeming?

Christians bear the Name of the One who loves all sinners and offers the gift of abundant life. Even if P.C., re-branders, and government reports hit us with their canes, we will still reach out in love, again and again. People can embrace or deny Truth, but they can't change it. May the Name of our Lord Jesus be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God (1 Thes. 1:12).

## Drugs ...

continued from Page 4A

has more of an intoxicating effect than a healing effect. So, now that we have that out of the way, let's talk about an article that just showed up in the *Wall Street Journal*.

According to the journal, a new study by a Dr. Winstanley's group in the *Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience* examines how these two chemicals shape our willingness to face a challenge. Does marijuana make us lazy?

To answer this question, the Winstanley team first tested rats to determine which were hard workers and which were slackers. After being injected with THC, CBD or both, the rats had to choose between a simple task with a measly reward or a demanding one that reaped a bigger payoff.

According to Dr. Winstanley, THC didn't impair the rats' ability to perform, only their willingness to try. That downshift in motivation didn't happen in rats injected with CBD only.

So, you already suspected that people that smoked marijuana got lazy and lost their motivation to achieve goals, but now you have the science behind it all.

tion Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

If there was ever a time to be Firewise in and around our communities, it is right now. With no rain in the forecast for a while conditions will only continue to worsen and the wildfire risk will become

more intense, so think before you do any kind of outdoor activity that might create a spark because you could be the cause of the next wildfire that we have been telling you would happen sooner or later. Think about your surroundings and be careful because if you are the cause of a wildfire, you could be presented with the bill for

all those firefighters, bulldozers and air tankers. Just imagine what a C-130 costs to fly! For more information on the wildfire situation contact the local state forestry office, the US Forest Service or Frank Riley, Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com

### Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



Bell ringing information  
at 706-745-5493